

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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ABC SUSPENDS RICHMOND STORE LIQUOR LICENSE

Richmond – The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) today suspended the liquor license of the Sunset Market, 1502 Fifth Street in Richmond, due to repeated violations of litter and loitering. The suspension is for 30 days, with ten of those days stayed for a period of one year, providing there are no further violations.

ABC Oakland District Office Administrator Everest Robillard said, “Liquor licensees have a responsibility to prevent objectionable conditions that detract and cause a deterioration of a neighborhood. Despite a warning from ABC, Sunset Market did not comply with the conditions established when the liquor license was issued, and they now pay the consequences.”

The liquor license was issued to the market with three conditions: The location is maintained free of litter; No alcoholic beverages consumed on any property adjacent to the businesses under the control of the licensee; and three, prevent loitering of persons about the premises.

ABC received complaints from residents in the area of loitering, litter, public consumption of alcoholic beverages, and narcotics transactions. A subsequent meeting with members of the Contra Costa Municipal Advisory Council’s substance abuse program was held to discuss complaints about the market.

After the meeting ended, three ABC investigators drove by the market and observed first hand the conditions objected to by neighbors. A warning was given to the operators of the market regarding license conditions and told they must comply.

A week later, investigators drove by and again saw the problems continuing, resulting in ABC filing an accusation which led to the suspension of the license.

In 1995, the State Legislature passed legislation requiring liquor licensees to pick up litter daily, prevent loitering, remove graffiti from buildings, remove excessive signage from windows, and other conditions that detract from neighborhoods and business districts.

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Maria Contreras-Sweet, a member of the Governors Cabinet.

